

# HADDAM ELEMENTARY SCHOOL DOLPHIN TIMES



Dr. Janice Harris  
Principal

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## Principal Notes

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Hopefully, you enjoyed a great Memorial Day with family and friends. In reflecting on May, I am so proud of the work that our students demonstrated in the visual and performing arts. The Art Show reflected the wonderful creativity that is present in childhood. Our 4<sup>th</sup> grade chorus concert and districtwide band concert showed what the combination of talent and effort

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(practice) can produce. It's hard to believe that the last month of the school year is now upon us! From here, it goes quickly, 3<sup>rd</sup> grade recorder concert, Field Day, Ringing Out, and a host of grade level specific events. We look forward to seeing you over the next couple of weeks.

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Besides all of the student events, we are busy planning for the 2011-2012 school year. One task that we are working on is planning class assignments. As in past years, we will work as a team to carefully review individual student profiles (including performance, learning styles, social interactions and special needs) to determine placement for next year. If you wish to express any specific concerns or needs that you would like the team to consider, please share them in writing to me (Dr. Harris) no later than Friday, June 3<sup>rd</sup>. Please do not use teacher names in your letter, as such letters will not be considered.

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We will also be hiring two new classroom teachers for the upcoming school year. These vacancies are due to one retirement (Ms. Debby Goodrich) and one position that shifted to our school because of our current 3<sup>rd</sup> grade enrollment. This will mean that we will have 3 classes at each grade level next year. I have included a tentative classroom teacher assignment list for the upcoming school year in this newsletter. We will say (a tearful) farewell to two other staff members: Jennifer Pletcher, school nurse and Eileen Grunenwald, paraprofessional. Mrs. Pletcher and Mrs. Grunenwald will be relocating respectively to the Boston area and the Philadelphia area. Later in this newsletter, our staff members who are leaving have included a farewell to the HES community in their own words.

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I would like to offer a special tribute to **Cindy Mortensen** and **John Grasso**, two staff members who are exemplary role models for our students. These staff members have been nominated by their peers for Teacher-of-the-Year and Staff-Member-of-the-Year respectively for Haddam Elementary School. We look forward to recognizing them at the next Board of Education meeting on June 7<sup>th</sup>.

Finally, I want to thank all of you who have volunteered your time and talent to make our school year successful. We hope that you can join us on Friday, June 10<sup>th</sup> for breakfast prior to the start of Field Day. We would like an opportunity to show our appreciation to you.

I wish you and your family a great summer! Don't forget to take a moment to fill out our parent survey online. We would love to have your feedback:

<https://sharedserver.rsd17.org/teacherwebpages/Lists/HaddamElementaryParentSurvey/overview.aspx>



### HADDAM ELEMENTARY BEAUTIFICATION TEAM

Thank you to the following children & their families for coming out Saturday and working so hard for 5 hours. Samuel Wytas & Nathan Wytas, Mom & Dad; Matthew & Jackson Pray, Mom & Dad; Sydni and Taylor Therrien; Declan Christopher & brother Liam, Mom & Dad; Brianna and Amanda Minervino, Mom & Dad; Amy Jane Wiknik and her mom.



### PTO BASKET RAFFLE

We would like to thank everyone who made the basket raffle this year such a great success! This event helps raise money for the much enjoyed cultural arts programs at Haddam Elementary School. There are a few people we would like to express an additional word of thanks to: Mr. Granucci, and Mrs. Kohary, the teachers, office staff, custodial staff, fourth grade room parents; Dana Henry, Heather Lonergan, Colleen Totman, and Sharon Whitehead for their help with shopping and putting the baskets together. But most of all we would like to thank the parents who-- without your contributions this event wouldn't have occurred. Thank you again for all your support!!!  
Diane LePard and Heather Marica

### BASKET RAFFLE WINNERS

- American Girl Doll - **Grace Cassidy**
- A Night at the Movies - **Nicole Archibald**
- Arts & Crafts - **Jen Vaccaro**
- Baking - **Conor Champagne**
- Camping - **Domion Burr Caron**
- Chocolates - **Boyington family**
- Day at the Beach - **Carly Rosa**
- Family Fun - **Tina McNiel**
- Ice Cream - **Rutledge family**
- iPod shuffle - **Jonathan Johnson**
- Legos - **Carl Cavrell**
- Nintendo DS games - **Cat Gyorog**
- Red Sox #1 - **Beth Winikur**
- Red Sox #2 - **Jack Straka**
- Sports - **John Kowal**
- UCONN - **Tea' Marinaro**
- Yankees - **Barbara Uliano**
- 2011 Collectibles - **Sydney Thomas**



**LUNCHES:** The cafeteria will not offer any more student charges for lunches after June 10<sup>th</sup>.

*The June menu disbursed to students dated 2010 is current for 2011.*



## EVERY SMILE COUNTS

A Dental Hygienist from the Department of Public Health will be visiting our school on June 7<sup>th</sup> for a dental screening for Grades K and 3. An upcoming information sheet will be sent home with your child beforehand.

*Farewell*

*To: Mrs. Goodrich, Mrs. Pletcher and Mrs. Gruenwald*



Thirty years have passed since I started teaching at Regional School District 17. It has been a very detailed and heart-warming journey. I will always remember the support I have received from parents for my garden, bird and pond projects, as well as my daily work with students. My most cherished memories are those given to me by your children!

Thank you and I will miss you all very much! *Debby Goodrich*



Dear Families

It is with a heavy heart that I write my last entry to the Haddam Elementary newsletter. As some of you know, my husband has accepted a new position, and we will be moving to Massachusetts over the summer. I will miss every single child and family that I have gotten to know over the three years I have been the nurse at HES. I have enjoyed getting to know the children on a personal level, and watching them grow. I will miss seeing them every day more than anything.

I cannot thank all of you enough for the amazing support you have given me, not only professionally, but personally. From the moment you heard about our daughter Finley, you opened your hearts to our needs. I am lucky to be a part of such a kind, caring community that will do anything for its members. I will never forget what you did for our family, and where we are now because of that support. We are eternally grateful.

We are not moving far, so I hope to come back and visit a few times a year to see how the children are growing. It has been an amazing three years with your children and getting to know all of the families. I will miss all of you very much, and I wish you every happiness.

*"Don't cry because it's over, smile because it happened."- Dr. Seuss*

### **The CT Safe Routes to School Program**

Safe Routes to School (SRTS) is an international program that works to improve safety and encourage more American youth to walk and bicycle to school, thereby resulting in higher levels of physical activity, less traffic congestion, a cleaner environment, and an enhanced quality of life in our communities. SRTS programs can improve safety not just for children, but for the entire community.

The Federally funded Connecticut Department of Transportation SRTS program provides training, technical assistance and infrastructure grants to municipalities and schools to fund infrastructure projects those that will substantially improve the ability of students to walk and

bicycle to school, including sidewalk improvements, traffic calming and speed reduction improvements, pedestrian and bicycle crossing improvements, on-street bicycle facilities, off-street bicycle and pedestrian facilities, secure bike parking, and traffic diversion improvements in the vicinity of schools

This spring, the Higganum Vision Group initiated a SRTS project at HES. SRTS provided HES with an expert who presented the program at a PTO meeting this spring and conducted an assessment of the safety in and around HES. We ask all parents of HES students to fill a brief survey at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/HESSafeRoutesToSchool>. The survey results and the expert's safety report will be filed with our application for infrastructure improvement funds.

For more information, visit: <http://www.ctsaferoutes.org>

To get involved, contact us through [www.HigganumVisonGroup.org](http://www.HigganumVisonGroup.org)

### **Why Should Safe Routes to School be Important to Your Family?**

- Safe Routes activities encourage walking and biking to school and provide much needed physical activity for children
- Engaging in physical activity every day improves your child's ability to focus on learning
- Learning proper walking and biking behaviors reduces your child's risk of injury and increases their sense of independence
- Healthier children have more positive school experiences and better academic performance

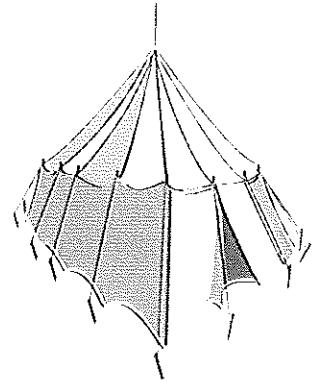
*"One of the benefits of walking to school with my children is that I have uninterrupted time with them each day."*

*Monica Koerschner, Parent,  
Ira B. Jones Elementary School,  
Asheville, North Carolina*

In the event of an evacuation in which students and staff must leave the school premises, we have two locations that we are authorized to use. One is the United Methodist Church next door and the other is the Town Garage. The **EMERGENCY LINE TELEPHONE NUMBER** is 345-8526.



# BBQ FIELD DAY LUNCH



FRIDAY, JUNE 10<sup>TH</sup>

- LUNCH CHOICES ARE: (A) CHEESEBURGER  
(B) HOT DOG

Served with Pasta Salad, Carrots w/ dip, Popcorn, Frozen 100% juice bar and Milk.

If you would like your child to buy lunch that day, please fill out the form below and prepay \$2.75 for the BBQ by June 7<sup>th</sup>. Checks should be made out to HES Cafeteria.



CHILD'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

TEACHER'S NAME \_\_\_\_\_

- CIRCLE ONE: (A) CHEESEBURGER  
(B) HOT DOG

FORM OF PAYMENT: CASH CHECK ALREADY PREPAID

*(please circle)*

*If you have any questions please call 860-345-4534, ext. 421. Thank you!*



Higganum Village Market will again be open on the Higganum Green--every Friday - from June 3 to October 28th from 3:30 to 6:30 pm. And, on opening day - musical guests will be The Garden of Beats - beginning at 4 pm. It's a great place to meet your friends and chill on the Green!



The Haddam Historical Society is pleased to announce its sixth annual “*A Week in the Life of an Early American Child*,” a program for girls and boys ages 8-12. This year the program will take place from Monday, June 27<sup>th</sup> to Thursday, June 30<sup>th</sup> 2011. Students will travel back in time to the year 1830 and spend the week with Mrs. Thankful Arnold. All activities take place at the Thankful Arnold House Museum in Haddam, and they include caring for farm animals; carding, spinning and felting wool; writing with a quill pen; making butter; baking; making a mini floor cloth; playing games, and even dancing! The fee is \$139 for the four days which include three half-day sessions (9 am to noon) June 27-29, and one full day session (9 am to 3 pm) on June 30<sup>th</sup>. For more information and registration, go to [www.haddamhistory.org](http://www.haddamhistory.org). For questions, contact Sarah Neal, Education Coordinator, The Haddam Historical Society, at [education@haddamhistory.org](mailto:education@haddamhistory.org) or 860 345-2400.

**INCA SON, Music and Dance of the Andes Kicks off Summer Program**

The Summer Reading Clubs of Brainerd Library will kick off with a performance by internationally known INCA SON. This Boston based group of creative and talented musicians performs music, dance and stories of the Andes. INCA SON will be providing this interactive family concert on Tuesday, June 28 from 6:30 to 7:30 PM at Haddam-Killingworth Middle School. The performance will be the perfect start to the summer reading clubs, “*One World, Many Stories*” for preschoolers through fourth graders and “*You Are Here*” for middle school students. Registration forms for joining the clubs will be available and materials for participating will be distributed immediately following the show. The summer reading clubs run from June 28 to August 9. Children age 3-grade 7 and their families are invited to attend the show and join the clubs.



**TEACHER PLACEMENTS FOR 2011/2012**

KINDERGARTEN	Mrs. Aithal, Mrs. Pommer, Mrs. Raczka
GRADE ONE	New Hire, Mrs. French, Mrs. Reynolds
GRADE TWO	Mrs. Formica, Mrs. Foisie, Mrs. Jones
GRADE THREE	Mrs. Leavitt, Mrs. Masci, Mrs. Gray
GRADE FOUR	New Hire, Mrs. Smith, Mr. Davey



**IMPORTANT DATES**



JUNE 2	GR. 3 CONCERT – APR – 9:30 A.M.
JUNE 3	GR. 4 PICNIC; 12:30 – 1:30
JUNE 7	GR. K & 3 EVERY SMILE COUNTS – PUBLIC HEALTH DENTAL SCREENING
JUNE 10	FIELD DAY – RAIN DATE 6.17.11
JUNE 10	VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION BREAKFAST
JUNE 14	RINGING OUT – 6 TO 7PM
JUNE 20 & 21	EARLY DISMISSAL – ALL STUDENTS AT 1:05
JUNE 21	LAST DAY OF SCHOOL

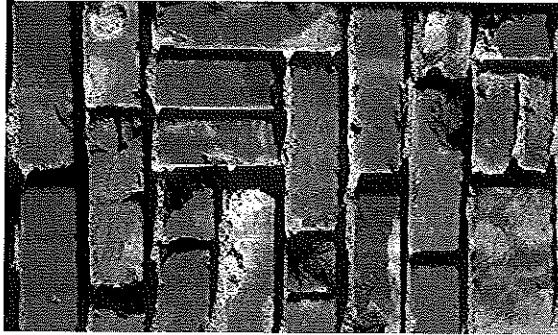


Next year’s school calendar is attached for 2011/2012.

The H.E.S. Kulmann Memorial Walkway

The Deadline to buy bricks is June 21, 2011.

As of May 31, we have sold 145 bricks out of our 330 brick goal.



It is the last chance to buy bricks for this project. The brick walkway is being built to celebrate the life of Jaret Kulmann, a former H.E.S. teacher, AND to **improve our Haddam Elementary School Primary Playground!** The inscribed bricks are a **wonderful, permanent way** to honor classes, students, teachers, staff, alumni, families, loved ones, teams, clubs, servicemen, or promote a local business.

- \$35.00 you can purchase a 4" x 8" Engraved Brick
- \$30.00 goes towards the cost and construction of the Walkway leading to the playground.
- \$5.00 goes directly to the Kulmann Children Scholarship Fund. \*\*

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Please Print (One letter per space. 13 characters and spaces per line.)

First line: \_\_\_\_\_

Second line: \_\_\_\_\_

Third line: \_\_\_\_\_

**Personal Information:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number: \_\_\_\_\_

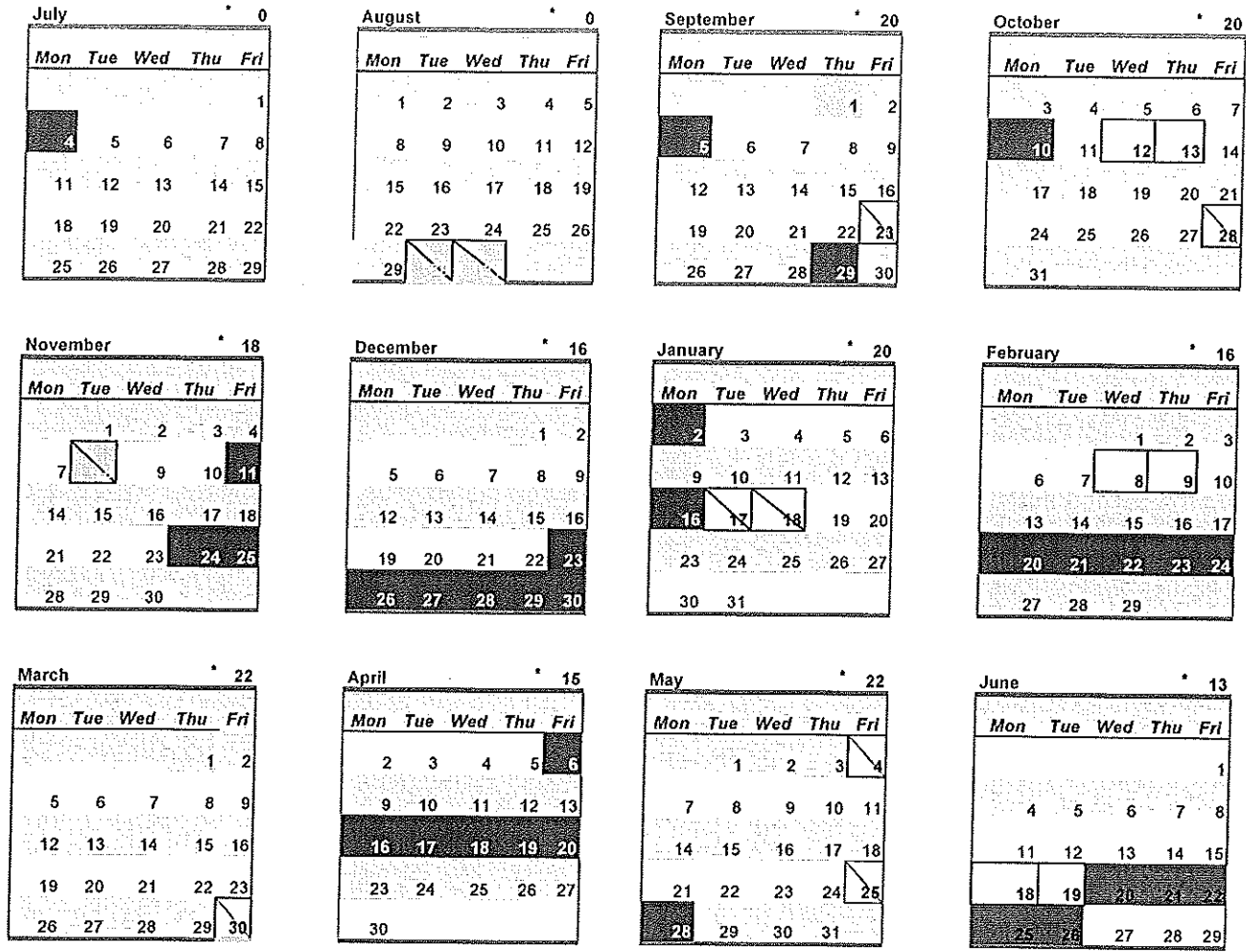
Payment information: **\$35.00** Check Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Make checks payable to: Haddam Elementary School  
The Kulmann Memorial Walkway  
P.O. Box 439  
Higganum, CT 06441

Questions: e-mail Jenn Leavitt at [leavitt77@rsd17.org](mailto:leavitt77@rsd17.org)

\*\*Information about the Kulmann Children Scholarship Fund is available upon request.

## Regional School District No. 17 Calendar 2011-2012



No school for students or staff	Professional Day - No school for students	Opening day of school
Professional Development	School Closure Make-up Dates	

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>4-Jul Independence Day</li> <li>Aug.30 &amp; 31 Staff professional development</li> <li>Sept. 1st Opening day of school</li> <li>Sept.5 Labor Day</li> <li>Sept. 23 Early dismissal all students; professional development K-12</li> <li>Sept. 29 Rosh Hashanah</li> <li>Oct. 10 Columbus Day</li> <li>Oct. 12&amp;13 Early dismissal all students; K-12 parent/teacher conferences</li> <li>Oct. 28 Early dismissal all students; professional development K-12</li> <li>Nov. 8 No school for students; staff professional development</li> <li>Nov. 11 Veterans Day</li> <li>Nov.23 Early dismissal staff &amp; students</li> <li>Nov.24&amp;25 Thanksgiving Recess</li> <li>Dec.22 Early dismissal staff &amp; students</li> <li>12/23-12/30 Holiday Recess/Christmas Day</li> <li>Jan.2 New Years Day <i>Observed</i></li> <li>Jan. 3 Classes resume</li> <li>Jan. 16 Martin Luther King Day</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jan. 17 Early dismissal all students; portfolio day K-12</li> <li>Jan. 18 Early dismissal all students; professional development K-8</li> <li>Feb. 8 &amp; 9 Early dismissal all students; K-12 parent/teacher conferences</li> <li>Feb. 20 President's Day</li> <li>Feb. 20-24 Winter Recess</li> <li>Mar. 30 Early dismissal all students; professional development K-12</li> <li>Apr. 6 Good Friday</li> <li>April 16-20 Spring Recess</li> <li>May 4 Early dismissal all students; professional development K-12</li> <li>May 25 Early dismissal all students; Staff professional development</li> <li>May-28 Memorial Day</li> <li>Jun. 18 Early dismissal all students; portfolio day for K-12 staff</li> <li>Jun.19 Last day of school if no snow days. Early dismissal staff &amp; students<br/><i>High School Graduation</i></li> </ul> |
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When all are used district will deduct from Winter Recess  
182 Student Days  
185 Teacher Days